

ANGLER GUIDE

Eleven Point River

The Eleven Point River is one of the most scenic and diverse fishing streams in the state. The 17 miles from Thomasville to Greer Spring offer excellent fishing for warm-water species. **Smallmouth bass** and **shadow bass** (goggle-eye) are the most sought after species in this section. As part of the U.S. Forest Service's Scenic River program, access to this area is limited to Thomasville, Cane Bluff, and Greer so plan on bringing a canoe to help get to the better fishing spots. On days when the smallmouth and shadow bass are not biting, a good population of **longear sunfish** will shorten the time between bites.

Greer Spring instantly transforms the river into a coldwater fishery, and the next 5.5 miles downstream to Turner Mill is home of some very large **rainbow trout**. This area was designated as a Wild Trout Management Area in 1992 and the fishery is still improving. Special regulations include an 18" minimum length limit, one fish per day, and flies and artificial lures only. Synthetic eggs and soft plastic lures are specifically excluded. Anglers can expect to catch and release good numbers of sublegal trout. A few trout will reach the 27" and 12 pound range. Access is limited to Highway 19 crossing at Greer and U.S. Forest Service gravel roads to Turner Mill. The remaining 15 miles from Turner Mill access downstream to Highway 160 at Riverton is managed as a put-and-take fishery. From February to mid-October, about 16,000 10-12" rainbow trout are stocked. Statewide regulations of no size limit and five fish per day apply. Access is provided at Turner Mill, Whitten and Highway 160. The 13 miles from Highway 160 downstream to the Arkansas state line offer good fishing for smallmouth bass and shadow bass (goggle-eye). Look for smallmouth in deep holes with cover provided by rocks, bluffs, or rootwads. Shadow bass can be found in rootwads and submerged vegetation in the tail end of riffles where the current begins to slow. A few **walleye** can be found in the deepest pools. Wade fishing on the Eleven Point is possible; however, the deep pools can make it difficult getting from shoal to shoal. A leisurely float in a canoe or jon boat will help make fishing on this scenic river more enjoyable. The Eleven Point River is always floatable downstream from Greer Spring and most of the time downstream of Thomasville.